



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 1996

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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MINNESOTA, Central and South Central

MNZ049>054-056>070-073>078-082>085-091>093 Stearns - Benton - Sherburne - Isanti - Chisago - Lac Qui Parle - Chippewa - Kandiyohi - Meeker - Wright - Hennepin - Anoka - Ramsey - Washington - Yellow Medicine - Renville - Mcleod - Sibley - Carver - Scott - Dakota - Redwood - Brown - Nicollet - Le Sueur - Rice - Goodhue - Watonwan - Blue Earth - Waseca - Steele - Martin - Faribault - Freeborn

14	1300CST	0	0	Heavy Snow
15	0800CST			

Snowfall exceeding one foot was reported from south central Minnesota through portions of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Some of the higher snowfalls included 15 inches at Rockford, 14 inches at Cedar and North Branch, 13 inches at Stewart and 7 to 10 inches across the central and southern parts of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

MNZ047-054>056-064>065-073>074-082-091 Stevens - Lac Qui Parle - Swift - Chippewa - Yellow Medicine - Renville - Redwood - Brown - Watonwan - Martin

17	1300CST	0	0	Blizzard
19	0400CST			

20 to 40 mph winds combined with recent snowfall to produce blizzard conditions for about a 36 hour period over much of the area. Whiteout conditions were common in rural and open areas. Every county road in Yellow Medicine county was impassable by the morning of 12/18. Travelers heading west were stranded in Clara City as plows were pulled off the road. Wind chills were as low as 60 degrees below zero.

MNZ041>045-047>070-073>078-082>085-091>093 Douglas - Todd - Morrison - Mille Lacs - Kanabec - Stevens - Pope - Stearns - Benton - Sherburne - Isanti - Chisago - Lac Qui Parle - Swift - Chippewa - Kandiyohi - Meeker - Wright - Hennepin - Anoka - Ramsey - Washington - Yellow Medicine - Renville - Mcleod - Sibley - Carver - Scott - Dakota - Redwood - Brown - Nicollet - Le Sueur - Rice - Goodhue - Watonwan - Blue Earth - Waseca - Steele - Martin - Faribault - Freeborn

23	0500CST	1	0	Winter Storm
24	1000CST			

General 4 to 10 inch snowfall across much of the area. Heaviest snowfalls of 6 to 10 inches in central and eastern sections of area while snow amounts were in the 4 to 6 inch range in the north. A few snowfalls included 6 to 8 inches across the Twin Cities metro area, 10 inches in Jordan, 8 inches at Cambridge, Forest Lake, Hutchinson and Montevideo, and 6 inches at St. Cloud, Glenwood and Redwood Falls. Strong winds of 20 to 30 mph in the wake of the storm on 12/24 resulted in restricted visibilities in blowing snow. Highway 19 west of Redwood Falls, Highways 7 and 40 at Madison, and Highways 67 and 23 were closed out of Granite Falls. The 6 to 7 inches in Willmar in addition to previous heavy snowfall caused a portion of the historical society's roof to collapse on 12/30.

After getting stuck in the snow about one half mile from home, a woman left her vehicle and become disorientated in the winter storm conditions. She was last seen leaving work on 12/23. Her car was found Christmas Eve. Her body was found in a snow covered field by a snowmobiler on 12/26. F54OU

MNZ041>045-047>070-073>078-082>085-091>093 Douglas - Todd - Morrison - Mille Lacs - Kanabec - Stevens - Pope - Stearns - Benton - Sherburne - Isanti - Chisago - Lac Qui Parle - Swift - Chippewa - Kandiyohi - Meeker - Wright - Hennepin - Anoka - Ramsey - Washington - Yellow Medicine - Renville - Mcleod - Sibley - Carver - Scott - Dakota - Redwood - Brown - Nicollet - Le Sueur - Rice - Goodhue - Watonwan - Blue Earth - Waseca - Steele - Martin - Faribault - Freeborn

24	1800CST	0	0	Extreme Cold
26	1200CST			

Strong low pressure system which deposited heavy snow over much of Minnesota on 12/23/96, pulled extremely cold Canadian air southward over Minnesota on 12/24 and 12/25. The cold remained entrenched through 12/26. Temperatures fell to 15 to 35 degrees below zero Christmas Day morning and Thursday morning. The Twin Cities and St. Cloud set new record low temperatures both days. In addition, the high temperature on Christmas Day in the Twin Cities was only 9 degrees below zero. Combined with the record low temperature that morning of 22 below, the mean temperature for Christmas Day was 16 degrees below zero. Christmas Day, 1996 set a new record for being the coldest day on record for the Twin Cities metro area going back to when modern day records began in 1890. The next morning, the Twin Cities fell to 27 degrees below zero while St. Cloud plummeted to 34 below. Wild River State Park in Chisago County measured a temperature of 38 below.



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WISCONSIN, West

WIZ014>016-023>027 Polk - Barron - Rusk - St. Croix - Pierce - Dunn - Pepin - Chippewa

14 1600CST
15 0900CST

0 0

Heavy Snow

Eleven inches was reported at Amery, 8 inches at New Richmond, and seven inches at Rice Lake and Ladysmith. 6 inches was reported at Durand.

WIZ014>016-023>028 Polk - Barron - Rusk - St. Croix - Pierce - Dunn - Pepin - Chippewa - Eau Claire

23 0900CST
24 0200CST

0 0

Heavy Snow

A strengthening low pressure system tracked from Missouri to the Chicago area depositing heavy snowfall over much of northwest Wisconsin. A few locations received around a foot of snow including Cedar Falls /13 inches/, Eau Claire and Durand /11 inches/, and Ellsworth /10 inches/. Other reports included 8 inches at Luck, Cumberland, Amery, Baldwin, River Falls and Ridgeland.